

CLAIMS:

1. A panelling system for covering a substrate with a plurality of panels, said system comprising at least two panels adapted for fitment together along adjacent edges thereof and a fitment member adapted for connection to at least said at least two panels;

each said panel having a panel body, an outer surface, an inner surface and a plurality of edges, a kerf extending into said panel body between said inner and said outer surfaces from at least one of said panel edges, and a rabbet portion extending into said panel body at said inner surface from said at least one panel edge; and

said fitment member including a central web portion, a pair of first flanges extending laterally from said web portion and adapted for a tight fit in a respective panel kerf, and a pair of second flanges extending from one end of said web portion and adapted for a flush fit in a respective rabbet portion of a panel,

whereby with said at least two panels engaging said fitment member along the respective at least one panel edges, said panels will be spaced from each other by the thickness of said fitment member web portion and said panels will be interconnected by way of said first and second flanges engaging the respective kerfs and rabbet portions.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein each of said first flanges decreases in thickness towards the outer end thereof to facilitate entrance of the first flange into a corresponding kerf.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein each of said second flanges includes a plurality of apertures therethrough for reception of fastening means adapted to secure said fitment member to a panel or to the substrate.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein each of said second flanges includes a plurality of countersunk apertures therethrough for reception of corresponding flat-head screws, with the apertures of one of said second flanges being oriented opposite to the apertures of the other of said second flanges, whereby one set of said screws can be utilized to secure said fitment member to one of said panels and another set of screws can be utilized to secure said fitment member to said substrate.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein said panels are arranged generally one above another, with said adjacent edges extending generally horizontally, and with said fitment member secured to a lower one of the panels by way of said one set of screws, said fitment member secured to said substrate by said another set of screws, and an upper one of said panels engaging said fitment member via corresponding first and second flanges only.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said web portion has an outer end portion that extends beyond the outer surface of panels engaged therewith.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said web portion has an outer end portion that is flush with the outer surface of panels engaged therewith.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein said outer surface of each panel includes a decorative covering and said web portion outer end portion matches said decorative covering.

9. The system of claim 7 wherein said outer surface of each panel includes a decorative covering and said web portion outer end portion contrasts with said decorative covering.

10. A fitment member for use in a panelling system to interconnect at least two panels together along adjacent edges thereof, said fitment member comprising an elongated central web portion, a pair of first flanges extending laterally from the web portion intermediate the ends thereof and along the length thereof, and a pair of second flanges extending from one end of the web portion, whereby in use a connecting portion of each panel will be tightly engaged by said first and second flanges on each side of the web portion such that the panels will be spaced apart by the thickness of the web portion.

11. The fitment member of claim 10 wherein each of said first flanges decreases in thickness towards the outer end thereof to facilitate entrance of the first flange into a corresponding kerf of the panel connecting portion.

12. The fitment member of claim 10 wherein each of said second flanges includes a plurality of apertures therethrough for reception of fastening means adapted to secure said fitment member to a panel or to a substrate.

5 13. The fitment member of claim 12 wherein each of said second flanges includes a plurality of countersunk apertures therethrough for reception of corresponding flat-head screws, with the apertures of one of said second flanges being oriented opposite to the apertures of the other of said second flanges, whereby one set of said screws can be utilized to secure said fitment member to one of said panel connecting portions and another set of screws can be utilized to secure said fitment member to a substrate.

10 14. The fitment member of claim 13 wherein, with said panels arranged generally one above another, and with said adjacent edges extending generally horizontally, said fitment member can be secured to a lower one of the panels by way of said one set of screws, said fitment member can be secured to said substrate by said another set of screws, and an upper one of said panels can engage said fitment member via corresponding first and second flanges only.

15 15. The fitment member of claim 10 wherein said web portion has an outer end portion that in use extends beyond an outer surface of panels engaged therewith.

20 16. The fitment member of claim 10 wherein said web portion has an outer end portion that in use is flush with an outer surface of panels engaged therewith.

25 17. The fitment member of claim 16 wherein said web portion outer end portion matches a decorative covering provided on said panels.

30 18. The fitment member of claim 16 wherein said web portion outer end portion contrasts with a decorative covering provided on said panels.

19. A panelling system for covering a substrate with a plurality of panels, said system comprising at least two panels adapted for fitment together along adjacent edges thereof and a fitment member adapted for connection to at least said at least two panels;

each said panel comprising a thin sheet of structural material having an outer surface, an inner surface and a plurality of edges;

an H-shaped spacer member secured to said panel on the inner surface thereof along one of said edges, said spacer member including a first pair of parallel legs extending from a central web thereof and a second pair of parallel legs extending from said central web in a direction opposite said first pair of legs, said second legs defining a kerf therebetween; and

said fitment member including a central web portion, a pair of first flanges extending laterally from said web portion intermediate the ends thereof and adapted for a tight fit in a respective kerf of a spacer member, and a pair of second flanges extending from one end of said web portion,

whereby with the spacer member of said at least two panels engaging said fitment member along the respective at least one panel edges, said panels will be spaced from each other by the thickness of said fitment member web portion and said panels will be interconnected by way of said first and second flanges engaging the respective kerfs of said spacer members.

20. The panelling system of claim 20 including a plurality of through holes extending through each of said first pair of legs of said spacer member for reception of suitable fasteners for connecting said spacer member to the inner surface of a panel and to the adjacent second flange of the fitment member.

21. The panelling system of claim 19 wherein said outer surface of each panel includes a decorative covering and an outer end portion of said fitment member web portion matches said decorative covering.

22. The panelling system of claim 19 wherein said outer surface of each panel includes a decorative covering and an outer end portion of said fitment member web portion contrasts with said decorative covering.

23. A panelling system for covering interior wall surfaces of an elevator cab with a plurality of panels, said system comprising a plurality of panels adapted for fitment together along adjacent edges thereof and a plurality of fitment members adapted for connection to adjacent pairs of panels to interconnect such adjacent panels together;

each said panel having a panel body, an outer surface, an inner surface and a plurality of edges, a kerf extending into said panel body between said inner and said outer surfaces from at least one of said panel edges, and a rabbet portion extending into said panel body at said inner surface from said at least one panel edge; and

5 each said fitment member including a central web portion, a pair of first flanges extending laterally from said web portion and adapted for a tight fit in a respective panel kerf, and a pair of second flanges extending from one end of said web portion and adapted for a flush fit in a respective rabbet portion of a panel;

10 one of said second flanges of each fitment member including means for securing that fitment member to the panel associated therewith and the other of said second flanges including means for securing said fitment member to a wall surface to be covered;

15 whereby with the pair of panels engaging said fitment member along the respective adjacent panel edges, said panels will be spaced from each other by the thickness of said fitment member web portion and said panels will be interconnected by way of said first and second flanges engaging the respective kerfs and rabbet portions.

20 24. The panelling system of claim 23 wherein said fitment members can extend generally vertically, generally horizontally, or at an angle to the vertical within said elevator cab.

25 25. The panelling system of claim 23 including a decorative cap member having a web portion, a first flange extending laterally of said web portion, and a second flange extending from an end of said web portion parallel to said first flange, said cap member being adapted for fitment in the kerf and rabbet portion of an end panel.